US Army Corps of Engineers®

R&D Program: TOWNS

Work Unit: Geophysical Techniques for Rapid Ground Assessment of Levees

Needs & Problems Addressed:

- Corps needs smarter, more rapid, user-friendly inspection tools that will probe the subsurface of flood-protection infrastructure to help avoid failures and target use of limited resources for repair and maintenance

Objectives:

- Develop towed survey tool with a combination of geophysical methods suited to operating without mutual interference and capable of rapid data analysis and visualization

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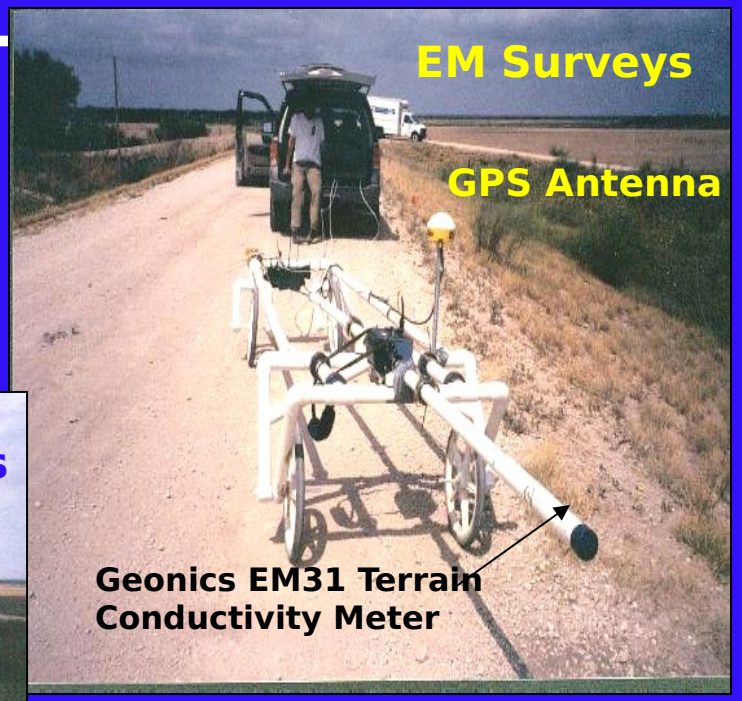
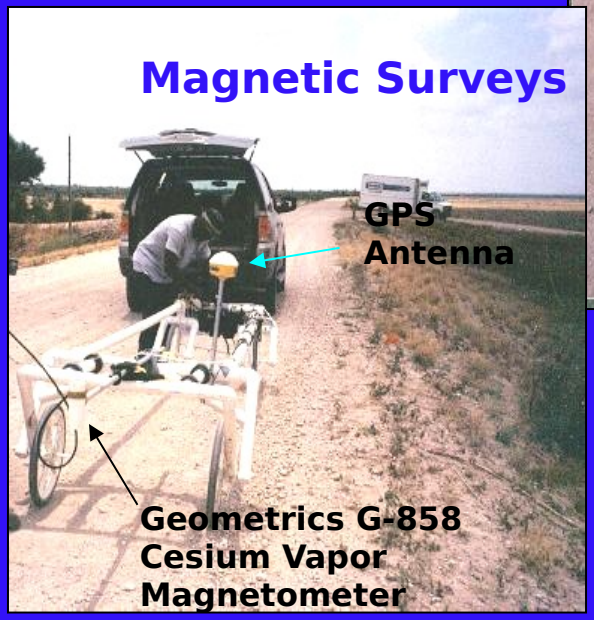
Work Unit Funding Profile:

FY03	FY04	FY05	Total
$220k	$220k	$0k	$440k





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Business Program/Missions Areas Supported:

- Inland Navigation __ %
- Coastal Navigation __ %
- Coastal Storm Damage Reduction 20 %
- Inland Flood Control/Damage Reduction 50 %
- Environmental Protection & Quality __ %
- Multi-Purpose (Hydropower, Rec & Water Supply) 10 %
- Emergency Management 20 %
- Regulatory __ %
- Support for Others __ %

(Must to add to 100%) Total: 100 %

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CW Strategic Goals Check List: (check if applies)

- Provide sustainable water resources development & mgmt _X_
- Restore past environment degradation ___
- Provide project services of high quality _X_
- Reduce losses from natural & manmade hazards _X_
- Supports being a world class technical leader _X_
- Addresses strategic or system needs in a framework or integrated approach by developing:
  - Methods or decision support tools _X_
  - Technology to improve life cycle productivity _X_
  - Technology to monitor systems, provide feedback and develop operating guidance ___

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Which “short term” field needs does this support:

- Improves efficiencies in operations and maintenance of Corps structures
- Improves functional performance and expedites decision-making during flood fighting
- Enhances service life and reduces life-cycle costs of projects by detecting maintenance needs early
- Increases public safety by providing rapid assessment of levee and embankment conditions

Field Review Group Relative Ranking:

- FRG planned for 21-22 AUG 02

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Listening Sessions Check List: (check if applies)

- Improves data sharing/exchange with the public in these areas:
  - Provides one stop shop for maps & data for basin wide planning ___
  - Provides data to make informed decisions _X_
  - Provides a system for basin wide planning ___
  - Provides information about what is happening at Corps facilities _X_ (up to date web sites)
- Tech Transfer plan to include educating the public X
- Coordinate research, models, analysis with regulatory agencies to insure results will be accepted _X_
- Develop R&D products:
  - For watershed management plans, not just at the project level ___
  - To include aesthetics as components of all projects ___
- Create better models for ground & surface water ___

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Products:

- TN: Results of field tests of geophysical sensors and platform
- TN: Assessment of new geophysical sensors and platform requirements
- TN: Results of field tests of prototype system components
- Training for District personnel for and levee assessment
- ETL/EM with guidance and documentation of system design and operational concepts

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Benefits

- Direct:
  - Focused on providing quantitative rapid field assessment method for levees and embankments
  - ROI due to cost avoidance provided by detection of conditions that could lead to levee/embankment failures
- Indirect:
  - Provides fundamental knowledge for maintenance of Corps structures
  - Provides risk reduction for public through early detection and assessment of levee/embankment stability
  - Enhances O$M and EM capabilities

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Technology Transfer Plan:

- Field demonstration of current geophysical sensors
- Development and field demonstration of prototype optimal geophysical sensors and platform component system
- Workshop/training on levee assessment using prototype system
- Assessment information integrated with levee inspection databases
- Dissemination of information through workshops, conferences, TOWNS web site

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Why should the Corps fund this R&D, instead of private industry and/or others:

- Little incentive for private industry to develop methods to monitor dam and levee seepage since most are federal, state, or local government property

What is Impact if not started:

- Potential failure of levees or embankments during floods
- Higher O&M costs when damage detected only after failure
- Less effective emergency operations without rapid assessment tool